– 11 –

ABSTRACT

A system and method for providing data analysis tools in a distributed environment, such as the Internet. The method commences by receiving a service request from a client. Typically, the service request includes input data for submission to a requested analysis tool. A job is then created to provide a job identifier and the input data in a suitable format, such as XML, for transmission to a service provider hosting the requested analysis tool. Information relating to the job is stored in a database, and the job is then dispatched to an agent for delivery to the service provider hosting the requested analysis tool. Once processed by the service provider, the job results are returned to the agent, integrated to retrieve the output data, and the output data is transmitted to the client.